

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 38-39 without prejudice. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-37 (withdrawn)

38-39 (cancelled)

✓ 40. (Currently Amended) A media signal capture device including:  
a recorder for capturing a media signal; and  
a steganographic encoder for encoding auxiliary data in the media signal; [The media  
signal capture device of claim 38] wherein the auxiliary data includes a reference to auxiliary  
data stored [outside the media signal] in an external database.

25 ✓ 41. (Currently Amended) The media signal capture device of claim [38] 40 wherein the  
auxiliary data includes authentication data for authenticating the media signal.

42. (Currently Amended) A media signal capture device including:  
a recorder for capturing a media signal; and  
a steganographic encoder for encoding auxiliary data in the media signal; wherein the  
auxiliary data includes authentication data for authenticating the media signal; and [The media  
signal capture device of claim 41] wherein the authentication data [is] comprises a hash derived  
from the media signal.

✓ 43. (Currently Amended) A media signal capture device including:  
a recorder for capturing a media signal; and  
a steganographic encoder for encoding auxiliary data in the media signal; and [The media  
signal capture device of claim 38 including] an interface for receiving the auxiliary data from an  
external computing device; wherein at least part of the auxiliary data is specified in the external  
computing device and transferred into the media signal capture device for encoding in the media  
signal.

44. (Currently Amended) A media signal capture device including:  
a recorder for capturing a media signal; and  
a steganographic encoder for encoding auxiliary data in the media signal; and [The media signal capture device of claim 38 including] an interface for receiving an operating parameter specifying a type of auxiliary data to associate with the media signal from an external computing device, the operating parameter being specified by a remote user via the external computing device and transferred into the media signal capture device.

45. (Currently Amended) A media signal capture device including:  
a recorder for capturing a media signal; and  
a steganographic encoder for encoding auxiliary data in the media signal; and [The media signal capture device of claim 38 including] an interface for receiving session parameters that govern operation of the media signal capture device during a session from an external computing device, wherein the session parameters are defined remotely in the external computing device and transferred into the media signal capture device to control the media signal capture device during a session.

46. (Original) The media signal capture device of claim 45 wherein at least one of the session parameters instructs the media signal capture device to preclude a user from altering a device setting during the session.

47. (Original) The media signal capture device of claim 45 wherein the session parameters specify auxiliary data to be associated with a media signal captured in the device during a session.

48. (Currently Amended) A media signal capture device including:  
a recorder for capturing a media signal;  
a processing unit for associating auxiliary data with the media signal; and

an interface for receiving session parameters that govern operation of the media signal capture device during a session from an external computing device, wherein the session parameters are defined remotely in the external computing device and transferred into the media signal capture device to control the media signal capture device during a session.

49. (Original) The media signal capture device of claim 48 wherein the session parameters specify auxiliary data to be associated with media signals captured by the recorder during a session.

50. (Original) The media signal capture device of claim 48 wherein at least one of the session parameters instructs the media signal capture device to preclude a user from altering a device setting during the session.

51. (Original) The media signal capture device of claim 48 wherein a session identifier is steganographically encoded in the media signal or metadata associated with the media signal in the session.

52-62 (withdrawn)

63. (Amended) In a method of associating auxiliary data with a media signal in a media signal processing system, the system including a media-signal recorder, a computer, and an interface for communicating between the recorder and the computer, an improvement comprising automatically steganographically encoding media signal data with digital watermark data upon transfer to the computer; wherein the computer is external to the media signal recorder.

64. (Original) The method of claim 63 which includes associating metadata in the recorder with a media signal captured in the recorder, transferring said metadata to the computer with the media signal, and associating said metadata in the computer with the digital watermark.

65. (Original) The method of claim 63 in which the digital watermark data permits detection of subsequent media signal alteration.

66. (Original) The method of claim 63 in which the encoding is performed by the computer.

67. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a media signal capture system, the system including a media signal capture device and a distinct computer with a user interface, the method including providing to the media signal capture device from said computer at least one data item to be steganographically encoded in a media signal captured by the media signal capture device, wherein the user interface of the computer is utilized to specify the data item and the computer is external to the media signal capture device.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67 which includes providing a steganographic link to the media signal capture device from the computer; wherein the steganographic link provides a reference to a database entry in which auxiliary data related to the media signal is stored and the steganographic link is embedded into the media signal to provide a persistent link in the media signal to the database entry.

69-71 (withdrawn)